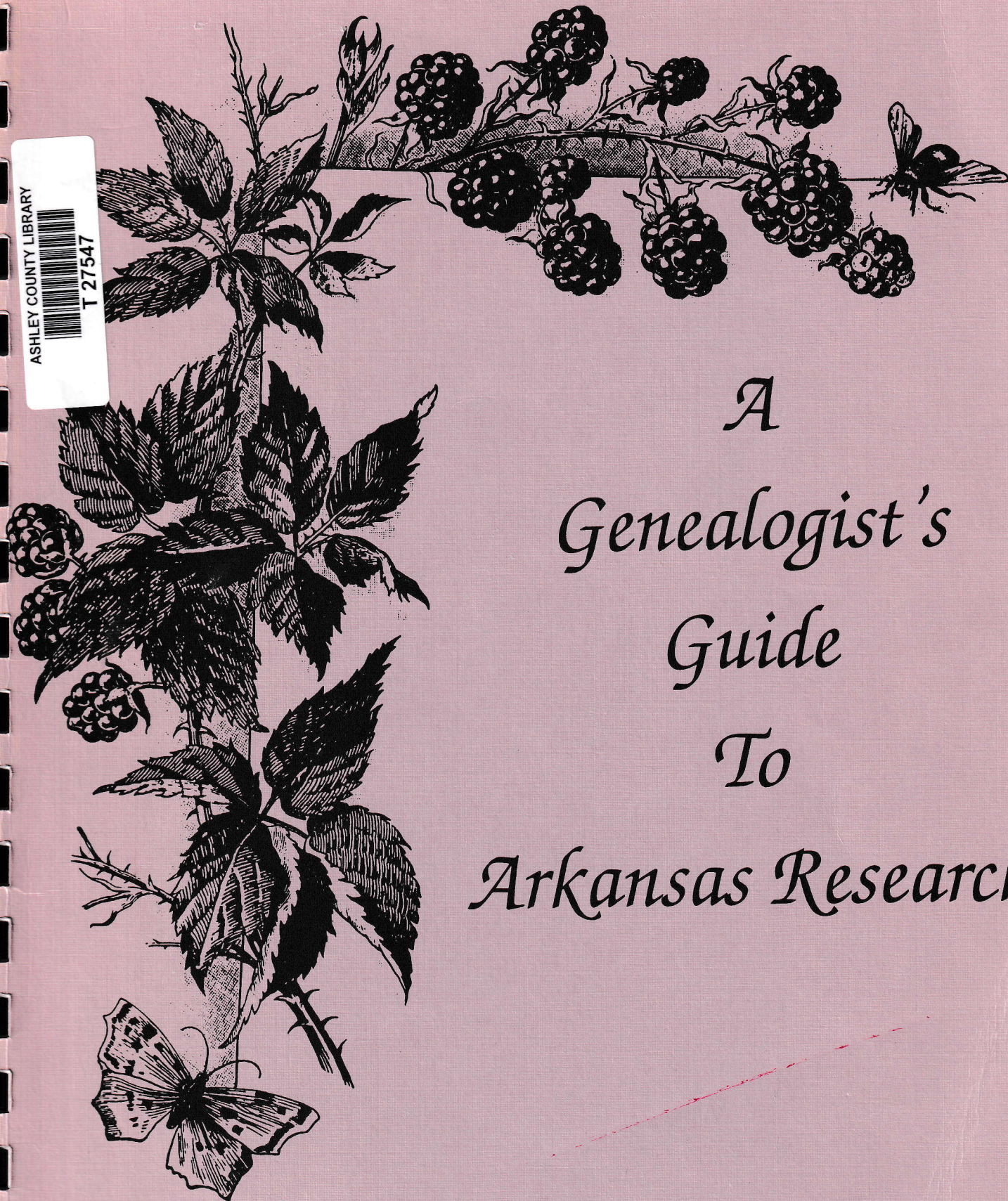


ASHLEY COUNTY LIBRARY



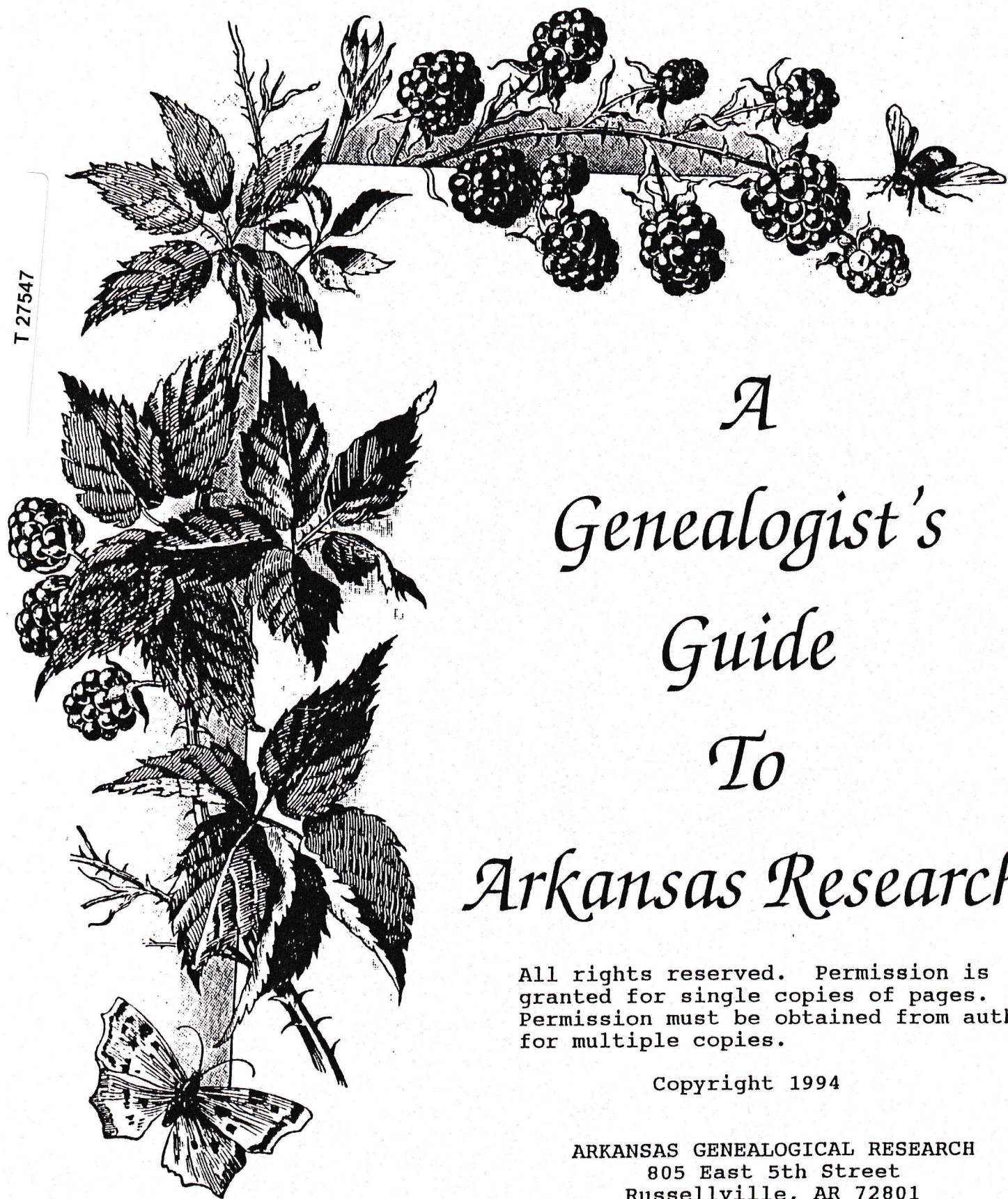
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*A
Genealogist's
Guide
To
Arkansas Research*

*by
Rhonda S. Norris*

T 27547



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ARKANSAS GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH
805 East 5th Street
Russellville, AR 72801

*by
Rhonda S. Norris*

DATES OF ORGANIZATION OF ARKANSAS COUNTIES



* Formed as Dorsey County. Changed to Cleveland in 1885.

COUNTIES WITH INCOMPLETE RECORDS

County	Date of fire	Comments	County	Date of fire	Comments
ASHLEY	1921	*#	MADISON	1902	*#
BAXTER	1890	*	MARION	1887	*#
BENTON	1865	*#	MISSISSIPPI	1865	*#
CARROLL	1869	#	NEWTON	1866	#
CLAY	1881, 1893	*	OUACHITA	1875	#
CLEVELAND	1875	*	PERRY	1881	*#
CRAIGHEAD	1878	*#	PIKE	1895	#
CRAWFORD	1877	#	POINSETT	1873	#
DESHA	1865	*#	POLK	1883	*#
FRANKLIN	1863	*#	PRAIRIE	1853	#
FULTON	1870	*#	ST. FRANCIS	1874	*#
GARLAND	1905	*	SCOTT	1883	#
GRANT	1877	#	SEARCY	1864	*#
GREEN	1876	#	SEBASTIAN	1882	*#
IZARD	1889	#	SHARP	1880	*
LITTLE RIVER	1882	*#	VAN BUREN	1863	*#
LOGAN	1878	*	YELL	1865	*#

*Some records saved. #Early tax records available.

**A Genealogist's Guide
to
Arkansas Research**

Dedication

To my husband, Paul and my daughter, Kelley

**A Genealogist's Guide
to
ARKANSAS RESEARCH**

Acknowledgements

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to each person that contributed information to make this publication possible. Thanks to the libraries, courthouses, museums, and societies.

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Mrs. Katie Murdoch, Pope County Library, Russellville, AR
Fayetteville Public Library, Fayetteville, AR
Ms. Stephany Bailey, William F. Laman Public Library, Little Rock, AR
Ms. Wanda Karrant, Fort Smith Public Library, Fort Smith, AR
Ms. Anne Ellis, Boone County Library, Harrison, AR
Ms. Mary Lou Taylor, Newton County Library, Jasper, AR
Mr. Charlie Daniels, Commissioner of State Lands, Arkansas State Lands Office, Little Rock, AR
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Mr. Russell P. Baker, Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, AR

**A Genealogist's Guide
to
ARKANSAS RESEARCH**

About the Author

"I was born in Jamaica, Queens County, New York, and moved to the South at a young age. I have spent most of my life in Arkansas. I am married and have one daughter. I served as church historian and teach genealogy at local universities. In my spare time, I enjoy reading genealogy books, magazines, working on my family history, sewing and writing letters.

I have been involved in genealogy for the past 16 years and have had a part time genealogy business for the past 4 years. On January 1, 1994, I opened a full time genealogy business, "ARKANSAS GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH".

I have furthered my education in genealogy by attending workshops, conferences, taking courses from Brigham Young University and the National Genealogical Society Home Study Course. I have sponsored an Everton Publishers Workshop, Heritage Quest Road Show, Preservation Emporium Workshop, and I enjoy speaking to others on the subject.

I received the "Richard S. Lackey Memorial Scholarship" to the National Institute on Genealogical Research in Washington, DC in 1993.

Rhonda S. Norris

Rhonda S. Norris

**A Genealogist's Guide
to
ARKANSAS RESEARCH**

Table of Contents

Dedication	ii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
About the Author.....	iv
Table of Contents.....	v
Introduction of Arkansas.....	1
Vital Records.....	2
Census Records.....	3
Arkansas History Commission.....	5
UCA Torreyson Library (Archives & Special Collections)	8
Central Arkansas Library System.....	10
Pope County Library.....	12
Fayetteville Public Library.....	15
William F. Laman Public Library.....	17
Fort Smith Public Library.....	17
The Boone County Library.....	18
Newton County Library.....	18
Arkansas State Land's Office.....	18
Courthouse Research.....	19
Land Records.....	23
University of Arkansas (Special Collections).....	23
Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (SARA).....	24
Funeral Home Records.....	26
Church and Cemetery Records.....	27
Family History Centers.....	28
Genealogy Societies.....	30
Boone County Heritage Museum.....	32
Carroll County Heritage Museum.....	33
Searcy County Library.....	34
Appendix.....	35
Bibliography.....	36

**A Genealogist's Guide
to
Arkansas Research**

This guide has been designed for the purpose of assisting genealogists with Arkansas Research. It has not been designed to give every genealogy resource available for the state, but to be used only as a guide.

Various repositories have been mentioned, but not all genealogy libraries, societies, museums, archives, Family History Centers, etc. are listed.

To research in a particular area or county, be sure to consult such books as: The Handy Book for Genealogist, Genealogist's Address Book, Ancestry Redbook, and others for addresses of repositories containing genealogical information.

I. Introduction of Arkansas

Arkansas was first known as the Bear State, later became known as the Land of Opportunity and a few years ago, Arkansas got its name "The Natural State" from six natural regions: the highlands known as: Ozark Mountains, Arkansas River Valley, Ouachita Mountains, and the lowlands known as: Gulf Coastal Plain, Mississippi Alluvial Plain (known as The Delta), and Crowley's Ridge. The six regions have its own characteristics such as: soil, weather, mineral resources and life forms. These regions are our natural environment and are the foundations of Arkansas.¹

Arkansas Territory was created in 1819 and became the 25th state admitted to the union in 1836. Arkansas Post served as capital for two years, and in 1821 Little Rock became the capital. The 1850 census reported that over 40 percent of Arkansas were natives. There was a great deal of migration from other states such as: Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, Kentucky, Georgia and Missouri. There were several Indian Tribes in Arkansas and by 1900 there was an increase of Germans, Irish and Italians in the Arkansas River Valley.²

In 1815 Arkansas had 5 counties, between 1819 and 1836 Arkansas formed 25 counties. Today Arkansas has 75 counties.

If you're interested in reading about the history of Arkansas, there are several references and to name a few:
The History of Arkansas by: Fred Berry & John Novak
Researching Arkansas History: A Beginner's Guide by: Tom W. Dillard and Valerie Thwing
Arkansas Imprints, 1821-1876 edited by: Albert H. Allen
Arkansas: A Bicentennial History by: Harry Ashmore
Biographical and Pictorial History of Arkansas by: John Hallum
A Pictorial History of Arkansas by: Fay Hempstead
A Documentary History of Arkansas by: Williams, Bolton, Moneyhon, Williams

II. Vital Records (Arkansas Vital Statistics)

Birth and death records are a very important source for genealogists. In 1914 the Division of Vital Records of the Arkansas Health Department in Little Rock became responsible for taking care of all original records birth, marriage, death, and divorce. There are also delayed birth certificates. In 1917, married records were maintained by the state and in 1923 divorce records became part of the Vital Statistics.³

The birth certificate, marriage and divorce records are \$5.00 each. The death certificate is \$4.00 each. When requesting a vital record, one should complete as much

information as possible, to assist the department in locating the correct record.

Marriage and divorce records can also be found in the county in which the event took place. Some of these records are earlier than the Division of Vital Records. For example: Pope County marriage records began in 1835. To find out when the records began for the county, use the Handy Book for Genealogist by: Everton Publishers, Inc.

The address: Arkansas Department of Health
Division of Vital Records
4815 Markham
Little Rock, AR 72205-3867
(501) 661-2336

III. Census Records/Mortality Schedules/Agricultural Schedule

Census Records

Arkansas has census records available from 1830 to 1920. The Federal Censuses for Arkansas are indexed up to 1870. Many individual counties have abstracted the census and have indexes up to 1880 and some 1900. In some counties there is an index of the 1890 Reconstructed Census. Depending on the census, much valuable information can be obtained by using census records. Some provide the month and year a person was born, occupation, number of acres of land, value of land, number of children born and number of

children still living, plus much more on an individual or family.

Mortality Schedules

These are arranged by county and then by township. They are available for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses. This schedule gives the names of those who died in the preceding twelve month period. It gives the sex, age, race, free or slave, place of birth, and occupation.⁴

Agricultural Schedules

The agricultural schedules are for the years 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. This census provides the names of farmers, arranged by county and then by township, acreage of the farm, the value, products of the farm.⁵

State Census Records

The Arkansas State Census consist of 1823 and 1829, fragments only.⁶

Arkansas has other special census schedules such as Slave Schedule, Manufactures, Social Statistics, and Defective Classes. These can be found at the Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock.

IV. Arkansas History Commission, #1 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR, 72201, Telephone: (501) 682-6900

The Arkansas History Commission began in 1905 and is responsible for collecting and preserving source materials of the History of Arkansas.

Since 1911 there has been only three (3) directors at the State Archives. The present one is Dr. John L. Ferguson and he has been there since 1960. Dr. Ferguson and his staff is very helpful. You can write the Arkansas History Commission and they will do their best to answer your questions. However, the staff does not do research for the public.

The Arkansas History Commission has many excellent sources available for research for a genealogists.⁷

1. United States Census Records (not only for Arkansas, but for other states as well.
2. Arkansas State Census for the years 1823 and 1829 (Fragments only).
3. Military Records
 - a. Historical Register and Directory of the U.S. Army (book)
 - b. Colonial Soldiers of the South 1732-1774 (book)
 - c. Index to U.S. Military Pensions (Old War) 1815-1860 (book)

- d. Index to volunteer soldiers, 1784-1811 (book)
- e. Registers of enlistments in U.S. Army, 1798-1884
(Regular Army) no index

Various books and records on:

- a. Revolutionary War (1775-83)
- b. War of 1812 (1812-15)
- c. Indian Wars (1815-58)
- d. Mexican War (1846-48)
- e. Civil War: Confederate (1861-65)
- f. Civil War: Union (1861-65)
- g. Spanish-American War (1898)
- h. First World War (1917-18)
- i. Second World War (1941-45)

4. Black History Sources

Index to Black soldiers in Union service during the Civil War, U.S.C.T., etc.

5. Indian Records

Census Rolls and various other records on Indians.

6. Newspaper Files Arkansas has about 900 newspapers published at 300 different locations, 1819 to present; Indexes to the Arkansas Gazette, 1819-1890, 1964 to present

7. County Records - selected records of all the counties, 1797-1920. Includes marriages, estates, deeds, county courts, inventories, wills, etc.
8. City Directories
Little Rock, Memphis, New Orleans, St. Louis, & Kansas City
9. Passenger Lists
Index to New Orleans passenger arrival records, 1853-1899, Passenger and Immigration Indexes (books), Famine (Irish) Immigrants, 1846-51 (books), etc.
10. Miscellaneous Materials includes:
 - a. Books and pamphlets
 - b. Cemetery records
 - c. Church records
 - d. Family histories
 - e. Naturalization records
 - f. Photographs
 - g. Maps
 - h. Biographical file index
 - i. Territorial papers of U.S. Senate, 1789-1873

This list is to name a few materials of the State Archives holdings. These records as well as others are either in book form or on microfilms. There are indexes for many of the records.⁸

1. Microfilm readers are on a first come first serve basis and they fill up quickly. Anyone going to the Archives to research, should get there early.
2. There is also a coping machine for microfilm and a photocopier. One should go prepared with dimes and quarters.
3. There is a snack bar up on the third floor that has hot dogs, salads, chips, drinks, etc. You can also take your lunch and make a day of it.

Notes of Interest: The Arkansas History Commission does not lend their materials and they do not have a fax machine.

The Research Room hours are: Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Closed state holidays.

For a brochure on the holdings of the Arkansas History Commission, write to the above address.

**V. UCA Torreyson Library (Archives and Special Collections
The University of Central Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas
Telephone: (501) 450-3418**

The UCA Archives was established in 1986 and the collection of data pertains to the state of Arkansas. There are collections of manuscripts, books, pamphlets, maps, photographs and oral histories. There are over 100 collections. There is a great deal of emphasis on The

Arkansas River Valley, Arkansas Immigrants, World War II Experiences, Artists, Writers, and Publishers.⁹

Major Collections:

Manuscripts - includes primary sources which are letters, diaries, memoranda, etc., also they have papers from individuals and organizations.

Maps - their collections consists of both old and modern maps of Arkansas. This is a large collection.

Oral History - oral history transcripts which pertains to UCA history and Ozark mountain folk culture.

Periodicals - various county historical magazines pertaining to Arkansas.

Photographs

Catalogs and Finding Aids:

The finding aids are very useful when searching for photographs and manuscripts.

The UCA Torreyson Library collects various information on Arkansas and is interested in any donations pertaining to Arkansas. For further information you can contact them at the UCA Torreyson Library (Archives and Special Collections), University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR 72032.

The hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Evening hours vary. Call for details before visiting.

VI. Central Arkansas Library System, (known as CALS) 700 Louisiana Street, Little Rock, AR 72201-4698 Telephone: (501) 370-5954

Collection - includes sources on most of the United States and some foreign countries. There is quite a bit of information on Arkansas, North Carolina, Virginia and other southern states. The Genealogy Collection is to provide users of the library with a general genealogy collection. CALS has not developed an extensive genealogy collection, as they do not want to duplicate the Arkansas History Commission.

The library has:

1. a large family history section
2. census indexes, but do not have census on microfilm
3. General Methodology and "How To" books
4. marriage records, etc.
5. cemetery records

Organization - the collections has over 4000 book titles, a number of periodicals and hundreds of pamphlets.

Three main divisions of the Genealogy Collection are:

1. State materials
2. Family materials
3. General materials (which include other countries, ethnic groups, etc.)

Selected Materials - books include county histories, indexes, compilations of marriage, cemetery, and census records

Periodicals - the Central Arkansas Library Systems receives about 50 genealogy periodicals, some of which include: (Just to name a few)

1. Arkansas Family Historian (which is from the Arkansas Genealogical Society)
2. The Genealogical Helper (Everton Publishers, Inc.)
3. National Genealogical Society Quarterly (National Genealogical Society, Arlington, VA)
4. New England Historical & Genealogical Register

Special Collections

1. DAR Genealogical Record Books (1924 to present) over 160 volumes
2. Indexes to census for Arkansas, 1820-1870
3. Arkansas Gazette Obituaries Index, 1819-1879
4. Cumulative Index to the Confederate Veteran

5. Little Rock city directories 1871 to present
6. Little Rock telephone books 1903 to present

Newspapers

1. Arkansas Democrat, October 1878 to present
2. Arkansas Gazette, November 10, 1819 to October 18, 1991
3. Little Rock Daily News, April 1919 to March 31, 1924

"Donations and gifts of family history and genealogical materials are welcome."¹⁰

The hours are Monday - Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.,
Sunday (Labor Day to Memorial Day) 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

VII. Pope County Library, 116 East Third Street, Russellville, AR 72801 Telephone: (501) 968-4368

The main genealogy collection is housed at the Pope County Library in Russellville. There are two branch libraries which are located at Atkins and Dover. The branch libraries have basic local history collections which relate to Pope County and Arkansas.

The Pope County Library began in 1976 and today has over 12 hundred volumes. There are many county histories, indexes, periodicals that are shelved in the Arkansas collection.¹¹

1. Vertical File

2. Census Records: the library has all the Arkansas Census records on microfilm from 1830 to 1920. Arkansas indexes from 1830 to 1870, Pope County indexes also include 1880, 1890 Reconstructed census, and 1900. The 1910 is in progress, as well as 1920.

There are some out of state census indexes, but all out of state microfilms will need to be ordered.

3. Newspapers:

- a. Arkansas Gazette
- b. Courier Democrat
- c. Dardanelle Post
- d. Johnson County Graphic
- e. Atkins Chronicle

4. Indian Records:

- a. Eight volumes of Cherokee by Blood
- b. 1900 Census Cherokee Nation
- c. Some census, immigration, birth, marriage, and probate records

5. Military Records:

- a. Revolutionary War (DAR Patriot Index, Index to Revolutionary War Pensions)
- b. War of 1812 (Arkansas Military Bounty Land Grants, 1812 Ancestor Index)
- c. Mexican War (Arkansas Mexican War Soldiers)

d. Civil War

Index to Arkansas Confederate Soldiers

Arkansas 1911 Census of CSA veterans

Arkansas' Damned Yankees: An index

Arkansas Union Soldiers' Pension index

e. Spanish-American War (Arkansas' Spanish-American
Soldiers)

6. County Records

- a. Records from 1830-1922 from Pope County Courthouse
- b. Misc records from other counties
- c. Misc records from other states
- d. Death certificates beginning 1983 (Book form)

7. Misc. Books and Maps

- a. How to: books
- b. Books on various states
- c. County maps
- d. Reference books
- e. WPA (a complete set)
- f. Index-Arkansas Wills to 1900
- g. Arkansas Journals
- h. Family Histories
- i. Historical books of Arkansas

8. Periodicals

- a. Arkansas Family Historian
- b. Yell County Historical Quarterly

- c. Johnson County Historical Quarterly
- d. The Genealogical Helper (is donated)

Photocopier is available for 20 cents, as well as a microfilm printer for 20 cents a copy.

Atkins Branch Library, 216 N.E. 1st St. Atkins, AR 72823, Telephone (501) 641-7904, hours are Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Closed 11:30 - 12:30.

Dover Branch Library, Slabtown Road, Dover, AR 72837, Telephone (501) 331-2173, hours are Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Closed 11:30 - 12:30.

Russellville Headquarters Branch, address and telephone above. Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon.

VIII. **Fayetteville Public Library**, 217 East Dickson St., Fayetteville, AR 72701 Telephone (501) 442-2242

"The Grace Keith Genealogical Collection of the Fayetteville, Arkansas, Public Library"

After Grace Keith retired as Director of the Fayetteville Public Library, she persuaded the Library Board, which governs the library, to let her establish a genealogy collection. It began in 1977 with a modest

Arkansas collection and she built it up until it became a very respectable adjunct to the library. She retired again in 1985 and the library Board named the genealogical collection in her honor.

The collection currently consists of over 6,000 books, over 2,000 microfilms plus microfiche, maps and quarterlies. The collection also includes an extensive obituary file covering 125 years from 1867-1992.¹²

Other materials of interest include:

1. Beginner Guides
2. Pension lists
3. Family histories
4. Magazines
5. Military records
6. Arkansas information
7. Census records, including all of the first census (1790) and all Arkansas censuses
8. Emigrant and ship passenger lists
9. Lineage books of DAR, DAC, SAR, Colonial Daughters of Seventeenth

Hours for Genealogy: Monday - Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

IX. William F. Laman Public Library, Civic Center, 28th and Orange Streets, North Little Rock, AR 72114-2296, Telephone (501) 758-1720

The William F. Laman Public Library has an extensive Arkansas History section. Others include Goodspeed's Historical Memoir's, County Histories and cemetery records, Indexes to census records, Territorial Papers of Arkansas and Annals of Arkansas by Dallas Herndon.

Hours are Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and through the school year, open on Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.¹³

X. Fort Smith Public Library, 61 South Eighth Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901, Telephone (501) 783-0229, Fax (501) 782-8571

The Genealogy Department is located on the second floor and has collections of books and microfilms to assist people in researching their family history. There are books and indexes for almost every state. Records of births and deaths of Fort Smith form 1881-1965, and also funeral home and cemetery records are available. Microfilms and microfiche are available with a variety of genealogical information. The library also has a compact disc collection for CD Rom with marriages, census indices, etc.

Hours are Monday - Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Tuesday evenings until 9:00 p.m.¹⁴

- XI. The Boone County Library, 221 West Stephenson Street,
Harrison, AR 72601, Telephone and Fax (501) 741-5913

Hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.,
Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10:00
a.m. - 5:00 p.m.¹⁵

- XII. Newton County Library, P.O. Box 516, Jasper, AR 72641,
Telephone (501) 446-2983

Newton County

History of Newton County Arkansas - Walter F. Lackey
Newton County Cemeteries - Herman Haddock
Newton County Cemetery Records - Extension Homemakers Club
Newton County 1870 Federal Census
Newton County Family History - Thomas Niswonger, Editor

Family Histories

Arkansas

Arkansas Census Guide
Arkansas Courthouse Research, Genealogist's Guide - Ruple
The Arkansas Family Historian - AR Genealogical Society
Pope County Arkansas, U.S. Census of 1850, Marriage Book

Histories

A History of the Ozarks - Ashmore
Arkansas Place Names - Dean, Ernie
A Reminiscent History of the Ozark Region
A History of Rushing Community 1830-1930

Genealogical Guides

Handy Book for Genealogists - Everton Publishers, Inc.
Genealogical Research Directory - National and International
Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives
Unpuzzling Your Past - A Basic Guide to Genealogy - Croom

This is to name a few of the books that is located at the
Newton County Library in Jasper.

Hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- XIII. Arkansas State Lands Office, State Capitol Building, Little
Rock, AR 72201 Telephone (501) 324-9222, Fax (501) 324-
9421

The State Lands Office keeps records of original homestead,

swampland, and school patents. The record gives the names of the original owner of the piece of property and information on patent numbers, land transactions, property locations and purchase dates. These records date back to the 1830's. The type of information that can be obtained from these records are the patent numbers, land transactions, property locations, and dates of purchase.

Copies of original survey maps and field notes can be obtained upon request. There is a nominal fee. Write for additional information on the holdings of the State Land Office.¹⁶

Hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

XIV. Courthouse Research

Courthouse research is considered some of the most accurate research you will find when researching your family.

Reasons being documents were drawn up, signed, and notarized in front of witnesses.

Before doing courthouse research, you first need to know which county courthouse you will need to research. Each courthouse is a little bit different. Some may be divided between county and circuit court and others may be combined between the two courts. Arkansas has 75 counties, 20 of those counties the county and circuit courts are together,

the other 55, the county and circuit courts are separated.

Look through the indexes of the type of records you are researching. These are most of the time indexed. You may find a few of the old records that are not indexed, but many of them are.

An important part of the courthouse is the vault, attic, or any other storage that the courthouse may have stored the very old records. They can contain a gold mine of information. There can be tax records, real estate books, criminal records, old packets of information on individuals. Some courthouses may even put old deeds, marriages, probates, etc. in a storage area, and if you don't ask or look, you could overlook a very important document.

Before going to the courthouse you should have a plan in mind. You should know what dates and records you are researching. Know which courthouse records you need to research.¹⁷ Get the most out of your search, as time is valuable.

There are ten counties in Arkansas that have two county seats, which means two courthouses. The counties include: Arkansas, Carroll, Clay, Craighead, Franklin, Logan, Mississippi, Prairie, Sebastian, and Yell.

County Court Records - are some of the most useful sources available for genealogical information. Records that are most used are deeds, tax lists, marriage, divorce, and probate records.

Books that are not used very much and should be are the tax books, tax receipts, and assessment books.¹⁸

Other county records include:

1. Wills
2. Guardianship Records
3. Probate packet (loose papers - full of wonderful information)
4. Marriages
5. Estate records
6. Tax records
7. Bonds
8. Inventory

Circuit Court Records

1. Deeds
2. Criminal/Civil records
3. Plat books
4. Mortgages
5. Divorce

6. Land Records
7. Power of Attorney

Some courthouse records (especially the earlier ones) may be found in the State Archives holdings. The Arkansas History Commission has county records on microfilmed. There is a little guide that is published called: Guide to Microfilmed County Records at the Arkansas History Commission, by Russell Baker.

Another place that you may find courthouse records is at one of the Family History Centers (known as the LDS Library).

Most courthouses have a copying machine and you are usually free to make your own copies. Cost runs from 25 cents to \$1.00 or so, depending on what the courthouse charges.

To name a few ways of finding the name and addresses of courthouses:

1. The Handy Book for Genealogists by: Everton Publishers, Inc.
2. Where to Write For Vital Records -- Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces can be ordered from Hearthstone Bookshop, Alexandria, VA
3. The Genealogist's Address Book by: Elizabeth Petty Bentley (Published by: Genealogical Publishing Co.)

4. Genealogists' Arkansas Address Book by: Desmond Walls Allen (Published by: Professional Genealogists of Arkansas)
5. Genealogist's Guide to Arkansas Courthouse Research by: Jack D. Ruple, Sr., J.D.
6. United States County Courthouse Address Book, 2nd ed. edited by: Leland K. Meitzler.

Land Records

Original land entry papers do not have a name index. They are located by certificate number or legal description by range, township, section and subsection. Land transactions recorded after the original entries are found in the county land records, which can be located in the county courthouse, Arkansas History Commission, or the National Archives.¹⁹

XV. University of Arkansas, Special Collections Division, Fayetteville, AR 72701, (501) 575-5577

The Special Collections Division has information relating to Arkansas history, culture, and literature. It was established as a separate library division in 1967. There are many donations of collections from public officials, private citizens, university supports, families, groups and other interested individuals.²⁰

There are several holdings to the Special Collections Division such as:

1. Manuscripts includes political history, social history, arts, and folklore
2. Arkansas Collection
3. Rare Books includes books that were printed before 1800 and others have been added because of their fragile condition, scarcity, or monetary or association value
4. Maps includes a collections of Sanborn insurance maps of Arkansas towns and cities, which is the most complete set in the nation
5. Picture Collection

The Special Collections Division is also interested in protecting your valuable books and documents.²¹

The hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

XVI. Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Old Washington Historic State Park, Washington, AR 71862 (SARA) (501) 983-2633

SARA is located in the restored 1874 courthouse at Old Washington and is a central clearinghouse for the preservation of records to be used by scholars and researchers of history.²²

The Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (SARA) is an independent archives governed by a board of directors from

12 counties formed from the original Hempstead County of 1819. The counties include: Columbia, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Sevier, and Union.²³

Research Sources:

1. Small Manuscript Collection (Indexed) - letters, newspapers, articles, essays, funeral notices, land grants, poetry, tax records, church records, etc.
2. Family History File (Indexed) - ancestor charts, copies from family Bibles, eulogies, obituaries, family group sheets, etc.
3. Newspaper File (Indexed)
4. Pamphlet File (Indexed) - church histories, Indians, festivals, poetry
5. Twelve County File (cross-indexed) of information that relates to births, businesses, cemeteries, deaths, census, churches, court records, newspapers, teachers, schools, historical sites, towns and settlements, townships, etc.
6. Genealogical Exchange File - a list of surnames being researched along with name of researcher.
7. Cemetery Records - Clark, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Sevier, and Union Counties

8. Marriage Records - Hempstead, Lafayette, Nevada, Sevier, and Union Counties
9. Maps - old town plats, historic trails, county maps, battlefields, World Atlases, etc.
10. Military Records
11. Tax lists
12. Court Records - marriages, wills, probate, deeds, chancery court, tax records, plat books, marks and brands, guardianships, birth records, original land entries
13. Arkansas Post Office (geographic site location reports)
14. Census on Microfilm (not a complete set) but include these states: Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia
15. Original Court Records

Hours are 7 days a week 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

XVII. Funeral Home Records

Funeral Home Records are highly recommended. Funeral home directors keeps records of the deceased and is usually responsible for filing the death certificate. There is useful information that one can obtain from a funeral home such as:²⁴

1. name of the insurance company that your ancestor may have used
2. parents names and other vital information
3. place of burial, giving name of cemetery, as well as name of town
4. surviving members of the family

A person can find a great deal of information from talking with the funeral home director and also from a funeral home death certificate. A funeral home director can also be most helpful in directing you to a particular funeral home or area, not to mention they can also help you with a location of a cemetery or possibly even a plot.

There are two funeral directories that one can become familiar with. They are American Blue Book of Funeral Home Directors and The Yellow Book of Funeral Home Directors, both which gives you names and addresses of funeral homes for each state.²⁵

If you don't succeed with the first funeral home, try another one in the area!

XVIII. Church and Cemetery Records

These records can be found at the:

1. Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock

2. Local library has cemetery books available
3. The minister or the local church may keep the records,
in many cases they do
4. Funeral homes can assist with cemetery records
5. An individual in the community may keep the records

Church Records

1. membership lists
2. marriage
3. baptismal or christenings
4. burial record
5. church minutes
6. committees
7. church activities
8. church histories

Cemetery Records

1. family plots
2. provide relationships

XIX. Family History Centers (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)

Research Aids

1. Genealogy Supplies
2. Copy Services
3. Research Help is available by the librarian

4. Family History Library Catalog
describes the library records and is the key to research
5. International Genealogical Index (IGI)
lists birth, christenings, marriage, and LDS temple ordinance dates of more than 147 million deceased persons
6. Ancestral File
is a family search that links individuals into families and pedigrees
7. Social Security Death Index
this consists of 39 million records of deaths that have been reported to the Social Security Administration. Most are from 1962-1988.
8. Family Registry
individuals and family organizations who are interested in sharing information about one's family.
9. Personal Ancestral File (PAF)
Genealogy software program that you can put your family information on computer. You can create your own family group sheets, pedigree charts, as well as other forms.
10. Library Publications
The LDS has puts out various publications about library resources and there is one that is a how-to-do publication.

Family History Libraries (available in Arkansas).²⁶

1. Family History Center
Fort Smith, AR 72901
(501) 484-0771
2. Family History Center
Jacksonville, AR
(501) 982-7967
3. Family History Center
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 455-0335
4. Family History Center
Russellville, AR 72801
(501) 968-3114
5. Family History Center
Conway, AR 72032
6. Family History Center
Harrison, AR 72601

XX. Genealogy Societies

1. Arkansas Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 908, Hot Springs, AR 71902-0908

was founded in 1962 by a group dedicated to preserving and sharing Arkansas Genealogical material.

They have a publication called "**The Arkansas Family Historian**" which is a quarterly publication. There is a query section for member's, source material, family data, etc.

The society has a list of researcher's who will do research for a fee. Each fall the society holds its annual meeting somewhere in the state.

The society also does special projects on occasion.²⁷

2. **Pope County Historical Association, 4200 "A" Street,
Little Rock, AR 72205-4046**

was organized in 1975 and the purposes are to bring together people who are interested in history and genealogy, to collect and preserve appropriate source material, to assist libraries in developing an adequate Historical Collection, to restore or preserve old landmarks.

The Pope County Historical Association Quarterly includes family group sheets, history of Pope County, histories of churches, cemetery records, query section and more.²⁸

Two county histories have been published for Pope County, The History of Pope County, Vol. I and II.

3. **Professional Genealogist of Arkansas, (PGA) P.O. Box
1807, Conway, AR, 72033**

PGA publishes a magazine called Arkansas Historical and Genealogical Magazine.

4. **The Daughters of the American Revolution in Arkansas**
has compiled over one hundred volumes of Arkansas

Genealogical Research Records. These volumes contain primary source materials such as county, cemetery, church and Bible records. There is a complete set of these at the Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock.²⁹

5. **Family Community Education** (formerly known as **Extension Home Makers Clubs of Arkansas**) has compiled cemetery records from all across the state. These records can be found at the Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock and located at county libraries.

Most counties have either a genealogy society or a historical society. Don't hesitate to contact them for information on your family or the area in which your family lived.

If you have any family that has come to or passed through Arkansas any of these sources can be of value to a genealogist.

XXI. Boone County Heritage Museum, Sponsored by Boone County Historical Railroad Society, Inc., P. O. Box 1094, Harrison, AR 72601, Telephone (501) 741-3312

The Boone County Heritage Museum has family histories, obituaries from 1975-present, land patents (Boone and Carroll) prior to 1869, county histories, church and

cemetery records, Southern Historical Society Papers, military records and more. The society publishes the Boone County Historian which began in December 1978.

Hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (May-October) and Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (November - April).

XXII. Carroll County Heritage Center Museum, The Carroll County Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 249, Berryville, Arkansas 72616, Telephone (501) 423-6312.

The museum is located in the Old Courthouse on the public square in Berryville, Arkansas. The Carroll County Historical and Genealogical Society's office is located on the 2nd floor of the 1880 Courthouse building. Research materials have all been donated or contributed by members of the society, as well as others.³⁰

Books and other items you will find at the Carroll County Historical Society are: Cemetery Books (indexed) for Carroll County, Index to Marriage Records for Carroll County, Funeral Home Log, Family Histories, Carroll County Obituaries, Civil War Records, Personal and Property Tax Books for Carroll County, History of Northwest Arkansas, Boone County and It's People, The Ozarks Past and Present, Carroll County Families These Were the First, Microfilm records include Carroll County Tax Records, Union United

Baptist Church Records, North Arkansas Star Newspapers, various census records and much more.

Hours are Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (during the summer).³¹

XXIII. Searcy County Library, P.O. Box 225, Marshall, AR 72650, Telephone (501) 448-2420

The Searcy County Library is not a Genealogy Library, but they do have various reference books and contributed family histories for use in the library. Genealogical helps available are: Searcy County Book 1 & 2, Searcy County Cemetery Survey Records, North Arkansas Funeral Home Records (April 1944-Aug 1992), Cemetery Books, Census records, Histories of Baxter, Carroll, IZard, Marion, Newton and Van Buren Counties, Marriage records, Tax lists, family charts, and more.³²

Appendix

DATE _____

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS
4815 WEST MARKHAM STREET
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72205-3867**

BIRTH CERTIFICATE APPLICATION

Only Arkansas births are recorded in this office. There are no original birth records for events which occurred before February 1, 1914. The fee is \$5.00 per certificate copy or birth registration card. This fee must accompany the application. Send check or money order payable to the Arkansas Department of Health. **DO NOT SEND CASH.** Of the total fee you send, \$5.00 will be kept in this office to cover search charges if no record of the birth is found.

INFORMATION ABOUT PERSON WHOSE BIRTH CERTIFICATE IS REQUESTED (Type or Print)				
1. FULL NAME AT BIRTH	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME	
2. DATE OF BIRTH	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	SEX & RACE
3. PLACE OF BIRTH	CITY OR TOWN	COUNTY	STATE	AGE LAST BIRTHDAY (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.)
	NAME OF HOSPITAL OR STREET ADDRESS			ATTENDANT AT BIRTH
4. FULL NAME OF FATHER	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME	
5. FULL MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER (NAME BEFORE MARRIAGE)	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	MAIDEN NAME	

If this child has been adopted, please give original name if known. _____

If you have received a copy before, please give certificate number. _____

If this is a delayed certificate, when was it filed? _____

What is your relationship to the person whose certificate is being requested? _____

What is your reason for requesting this certificate? _____

Is the person whose record is being requested still living? _____

Signature and telephone number of person requesting this certificate: _____

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Searcher _____

Index _____

Delayed _____

Prior _____

Volume No. _____

Page No. _____

Yr. _____

**Arkansas Department of Health
Division of Vital Records
BIRTH REGISTRATION CARD**

CERTIFICATE NUMBER _____

NAME _____

BIRTHDATE _____ SEX _____

TOWN _____ DATE FILED _____

COUNTY _____ DATE ISSUED () _____

THIS CERTIFIES THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE ABSTRACT OF THIS PERSON'S BIRTH RECORD WHICH IS FILED WITH THE STATE REGISTRAR.

HENRY C. ROBINSON, JR. *Henry C. Robinson Jr.*
STATE REGISTRAR

**BIRTH REGISTRATION CARD
(ACTUAL SIZE 3 3/8" X 2 1/8")**

**STATE OF ARKANSAS
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS
CERTIFICATION OF BIRTH**

DATE FILED: _____ DATE ISSUED: _____

CERTIFICATE NUMBER _____

NAME: **SAMPLE**

BIRTHDATE: _____ SEX: _____

TOWN: _____ COUNTY: _____

MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: _____

MOTHER'S BIRTH PLACE: _____

FATHER'S NAME: _____

FATHER'S BIRTH PLACE: _____

AGE: _____

SEAL

THIS DOCUMENT IS VOID WITHOUT A COLORED BACKGROUND
THE BACK OF THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS AN ARTIFICIAL WATERMARK

Henry C. Robinson Jr.
Henry C. Robinson Jr.
State Registrar 168661

**CERTIFICATION OF BIRTH
(ACTUAL SIZE 7 1/2" X 6 1/2")**

FOR CHARGE CARD CALLS ONLY:
Call (501) 661-2726 to charge copies to a VISA or MASTERCARD.



CHARGE CARD FEE IS \$5.00 IN ADDITION TO FEE FOR EACH CERTIFIED COPY REQUESTED.

ALL TYPES OF COPIES ARE LEGAL PROOF OF BIRTH

	HOW MANY
COPY OF ORIGINAL RECORD (\$5.00 EACH)	
CERTIFICATION OF BIRTH** (\$5.00 EACH)	
BIRTH CARD (\$5.00 EACH)	
AMOUNT OF MONEY ENCLOSED \$	

** If Certification of Birth cannot be issued, copy of original record will be substituted.

Please **PRINT** below the name and address of the person who is to receive the copy(s) or card(s).

ZIP

Any person who willfully and knowingly makes any false statement in an application for a certified copy of a vital record filed in this state is subject to a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or imprisoned not more than five years or both, for each offense. (Arkansas Statutes § 44-2-1)

DATE _____

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS
4815 WEST MARKHAM STREET
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72205-3867

MARRIAGE OR DIVORCE RECORD APPLICATION

Only Arkansas events of marriage or divorce are filed in this office. Marriage records start with 1917 and divorce records with 1923. The fee is \$5.00 per certified copy of a marriage or divorce coupon. This fee must accompany the application. Send check or money order payable to the Arkansas Department of Health. DO NOT SEND CASH. Of the total fee you send, \$5.00 will be kept in this office to cover search charges for each record not found in our files.

FILL IN FOR A MARRIAGE RECORD

NAME OF GROOM _____

MAIDEN NAME OF BRIDE _____

DATE OF MARRIAGE _____
Month Day Year

COUNTY IN WHICH LICENSE WAS ISSUED _____

FILL IN FOR A DIVORCE RECORD

NAME OF HUSBAND _____

NAME OF WIFE _____

DATE OF DIVORCE OR DISMISSAL _____
Month Day Year

COUNTY IN WHICH DIVORCE WAS GRANTED/DISMISSED _____

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

What is your relationship to the parties named on the requested record?
_____What is your reason for requesting a copy of this record? _____
_____Signature and telephone number of person requesting this record:

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Searcher _____

Index _____

Volume No. _____

Page No. _____

Yr. _____

DO NOT DETACH

THIS IS A MAILING INSERT. **PRINT** NAME AND ADDRESS OF
PERSON TO WHOM THE CERTIFIED COPY IS TO BE MAILED.

THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE.



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

VR-9

NO. OF COPIES REQUESTED

(Fee is \$5.00 per copy)

Marriage _____

Divorce _____

Amount of
Money Enclosed _____

Any person who willfully and knowingly makes any false statement in an application for a certified copy of a vital record filed in this state is subject to a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or imprisoned not more than five (5) years, or both (Ark. Statutes 82-527)

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS
4815 WEST MARKHAM STREET, SLOT 44
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72205-3867

DATE _____

DEATH CERTIFICATE APPLICATION

Only Arkansas deaths are recorded in this office. There are no original death records for events which occurred before February 1, 1914. The fee is \$4.00 for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy of the same record ordered at the same time. The fee must accompany the application. Send check or money order payable to the Arkansas Department of Health. DO NOT SEND CASH. Of the total fee you send, \$4.00 will be kept in this office to cover search charges if no record of the death is found.

INFORMATION ABOUT PERSON WHOSE DEATH CERTIFICATE IS REQUESTED (Type or Print)

FULL NAME OF DECEASED _____
First Middle Last

DATE OF DEATH _____ AGE OF DECEASED _____ SEX _____ RACE _____

PLACE WHERE DEATH OCCURRED _____

City County State

If Unknown,

Give Last Place of Residence _____

City County State

NAME OF FUNERAL HOME _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME AND ADDRESS OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN _____

If deceased was an infant, was it stillborn? _____

What is your relationship to the person whose certificate is being requested? _____

What is your reason for requesting a copy of this record? _____

Signature and telephone number of person requesting this certificate: _____

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Searcher

Index

Delayed

Prior

Volume No.

Page No.

Yr.

DO NOT DETACH

THIS IS A MAILING INSERT. PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS OF
PERSON WHO IS TO RECEIVE THE COPY OR COPIES.

THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE

FOR CHARGE CARD CALLS ONLY-

Call (501) 661-2726 to charge copies to a VISA or
MASTERCARD.



CHARGE CARD FEE IS \$5.00, IN ADDITION TO FEE FOR
EACH CERTIFIED COPY REQUESTED.

COPIES REQUESTED

HOW MANY

ONE COPY \$4.00

ADDITIONAL
COPIES

\$1.00 EACH

AMOUNT
OF MONEY
ENCLOSED \$

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31. Carroll County Heritage Center Museum (Brochure and handout), Berryville, AR.
32. Searcy County Library (handout), Marshall, Arkansas.